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8 militants feared killed in clash with JTF



by [ABRAHAM OYELADE](#) April 26, 2009

MILITANTS fled two of their camps in Rivers and Delta states, yesterday, after eight of them were feared shot dead by troops of the Joint Task Force (JTF) on the Niger-Delta, who also razed the dens in

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separate gun battles at Bakana and Yokiri.

A cache of arms was also recovered from the militants by the JTF, which acted on a tip off that some weapons were moved into one of the Bakana camps in Rivers State while some militants who specialize in the attack of oil installations were taking refuge in the Delta camp.

Among the weapons recovered from the militant camps were general purpose machine guns (GPMG), 1 pump action rifle, 2 G3 rifles, 1 Fabrique Nationale (FN) rifle, 13 FN empty magazine, 14 empty AK 47 magazine, 4 bridge blocks, 606 rounds of 9mm ammunition for pistol, 27 rounds of 7.62mm (NATO), 2 rounds of 7.62mm (Special), 32 rounds of 14mm mortar and 2 rounds of

dynamites. Accessories recovered include 2 VHF handheld radio, 14 fragment life jackets, 1 detonator cable, 2 sledge hammers, 2 pick axes and many army camouflage uniforms.

Delta State Waterways and Security Committee (DWSC) also sent out words to the militant groups not to engage the JTF in gun battle but to quietly surrender their arms in their own interest.

Spokesman of the JTF, Col Rabe Abubakar, who confirmed the incidents, said, "The troops of Joint Task Force Operation RESTORE HOPE, while conducting a cordon and search operation around a camp of kidnappers that specialize in abduction of expatriates and prominent Nigerians at Bakana Community in Akukutori LGA of Rivers State, were needlessly attacked by a militant group located close to the camp of the kidnappers. "This attack resulted into heavy exchange of gunfire between the troops of JTF and the militants".

Abubakar went further: "The troops acted on credible intelligence that there was movement of arms and ammunition into the kidnappers camp and their hideout. Based on this, the JTF decided to conduct a cordon and search operation in order to recover the arms and ammunition but they were attacked by a militant group led by their leader popularly called 'Iron man'. "This unprovoked attack led to heavy exchange of gunfire which lasted several hours".

Abubakar further stated that after the exchange of gunfire, the militants were overpowered by the superior fire power of the JTF troops, fled into their camp and were pursued and subsequently their camp was destroyed.

"During combing by the JTF troops in the area where the encounter took place, some dead bodies of the militants were found and several arms and ammunition were recovered at the camp. No casualty on our side and operation is on-going till we stabilize the area.

" Similarly, at the early hours of today, JTF troops raided a camp at Bony around Yokri general area of Delta State whose militants terrorize the populace and who have been taking part along with other militant groups to carry out attacks on our locations and oil installations.

"The militants fled after the initial encounter and took refuge in their camp which was razed by the troops. The troops inflicted various degrees of gunshot injuries on the fleeing militants. No casualty or injury was recorded during the raid".



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